lity criteria for grant of Special loans towards part of the promoters contribution have been liberalised to enable the individual mills to take the benefit of the Fund.

Chief Justice's statement on disposal of pending cases in the Supreme Court

1135. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the newly appointed Chief Justice of India on assumption of his office has stated that steps would be taken to quickly dispose of the pending cases;

(b) if so, what measures would be taken to dispose of the pending cases in the Supreme Court;

(c) what is the number of cases at present pending in the Supreme Court; and

(d) by when the pending cases are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Supreme Court has already taken various measures to dispose of the pending cases, such as, grouping of matters regarding common questions of law, dispensing with printing of appeal records in most cases, constitution of specialised benches, amendment of Supreme Court Rules empowering Judges in Chambers to dispose of certain type of matters and filing of written arguments and restricting oral arguments.

(c) As on 30-6-1989, 208799 cases were pending in the Supreme Court.

(d) It is not possible to specify the time by which the pending cases will be disposed of.

Release of funds to NTC for reimbursing cash losses

1136. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any proposal has been cleared to release funds to NTC for reimbursing their cash losses;

(b) if so, what amount was released yearwise; and

(c) What steps are being taken to check losses in NTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Government has been reimbursing the cash losses incurred by NTC mills, through budgetary support, in the form of working capital loans. A statement showing the amount released to NTC, on this account, from the year 1975-76 to 1988-89 is attached. (*See below*).

(c) NTC has drawn up a new short-term and long-term strategy for bringing about a turn-around. This strategy covers, among other things phasing of uneconomic activities, selective modernisation with the help of institutional finance, product upgradation and diversification, increased production of blended yarn and fabrics, greater push in exports and labour rationalisation under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Statement

Amount released to NTC (Holding Company), New Delhi by the Government, through budgetary support, as working capital loans, during the years 1975-76 to 1988-89.

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crores)
1975-76	72.90
1976-77	34.77

Year	Amount released (Rs. in crore)
1977-78	33.20
1978-79	21.93
1979-80	23.00
1980-81	22.19
1981-82	15.24
1982-83	69.57
1983-84	36.17
1984-85	202.84
1985-86	123.67
1986-87	135.14
1987-88	170.22
1988-89	216.84

Cotton monopoly procurement Scheme of Maharashtra

1137. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any extension has been given to Maharashtra's Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any, further study is also being conducted on the long term implications of the scheme; and

(d) if so, by when the study is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) The Union Government have extended the Maharashtra Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme for a further period of one year with effect from 1-7-86 for the Present.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to constitute a high level interministerial Committee to examine the merits and demerits of the continuance of the Scheme. The Committee is expected to give its reports within 6 months.

Shifting of head office of Tea Board from Calcutta to Guwahati

1138. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been a consistent demand from the people of Assam and State Government for shifting of the Head Office of Tea Board from Calcutta to Guwahati; and

(b) if so, whether Government have since taken any decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Calcutta being a major port, has remained the centre of export activities for a long time. Most of the tea buying for overseas markets is done from Calcutta auction and a number of exporting firms are also located there. It is therefore not practical to shift the Head Office of Tea Board from Calcutta to Guwahati.

Assam's relation with neighbouring States

1139. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the relation of Assam with the neighbouring North Eastern States have been at a low ebb owing to the border disputes continuing amongst them over the years; and